



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Society in Israel - 53106

Last update 26-09-2023

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Sociology and Anthropology

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Yael Berda

Coordinator Email: yael.berda@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 -10:30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yael Berda

Course/Module description:

Knowledge about the society in Israel, its historical and cultural changes over the years – is a major layer for students in the sociology and anthropology department and an important key in the process of deciphering the society of Israel today. The foundation of the course is the assumption that historical and cultural unified story is a result of a social construction made by one group in a specific time and as a manifestation of a particular perspective and ideology. We, as sociologists, are required to question both the dominant narrative and the interests it serves but also the unveil and listen to narratives that were pushed aside. The course will focus not only on the multiplicity of narratives within the historical and cultural developments that yielded perceptions of the society in Israel, but also the production of the sociological knowledge about this society. In other words, the course will focus also on the development of Israeli sociology, while trying to answer questions like how social knowledge is produced? How does it become permanent? And when and how it is replaced by different and new knowledge?

Course/Module aims:

1. Introduction with different perspectives for social events that contributed to the shape of the society in Israel as we know it today.
2. developing analytical skills and critical thinking towards historical events, as well as toward our daily lives.
3. allow for reflection towards the sociological research and the modes of knowledge production in the Israeli social science along the years.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. The Student will be able to identify process and analyze social forces that shaped the society in Israel as we know it today.
2. The students will be able to apply theoretical sociological perspectives to Israel's social, financial, political and cultural reality.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal Teaching + three field trips

Course/Module Content:

different perspectives to the research of society
Nation building and the Zionist ideology
Arab society in Israel
Migration: social, cultural and geographical changes.
Political turning points
Economical dimensions
The job market
New communities; new citizenships

Required Reading:

Ram, Uri. 1995. *Zionist Historyography and the invention of modern Jewish nationhood*.
Brenner Michael. 2018. "A State Like Any Other State or a Light Unto the Nations?" *Israel Studies*, vol. 23(3): 3-10. [רשות]
Mayer, T. (2000). *From zero to hero: Masculinity in Jewish nationalism*. In T. Mayer (Ed.), *Gender ironies of nationalism: Sexing the nation* (pp. 283-308). London, New York: Routledge.
Yadgar, Yaacov, "SHAS as a Struggle to Create a New Field: A Bourdieuan Perspective of an Israeli Phenomenon". *Sociology of Religion* 64(2), pp. 223-246, 2003.
Willen, Sarah. 2019. *Fighting for Dignity*. Philadelphia: Penn University Press. Chapter 3: 132-163.

Additional Reading Material:

TBA

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 30 %
Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: